

Claims

1. An external urinary catheter, comprising a tip portion and a sheath portion, said external urinary catheter being manufactured by thermoplastic processing, characterized in that, in a position of use, at least one area of the external urinary catheter is transparent and/or permeable.
2. An external urinary catheter as claimed in claim 1, in which the external urinary catheter is made from a material comprising at least one transparent thermoplastic elastomer and at least one plasticizer.
3. An external urinary catheter as claimed in claim 2, in which said material comprises a polystyrene polyethylene/butylene polystyrene compound, another styrenic elastomer compound or elastomeric metallocen polyethylene or metallocen polypropylene, and at least one slip additive.
4. An external urinary catheter as claimed in any of claims 2 and 3, in which said at least one slip additive is an amide, such as erucamide, stearamide or oleamide or any other suitable slip additive.
5. An external urinary catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims, in which the said at least one area has a haze value (according to ASTM Standard Test Method D1003-61) lower than 30%, preferably lower than 15%.
6. An external urinary catheter as claimed in claim 1, in which the external urinary catheter is made from a material comprising at least one permeable thermoplastic elastomer and at least one plasticizer.
7. An external urinary catheter as claimed in

claim 6, in which a film of said material having a thickness of approximately 0.2 mm has a permeability of at least 500 g/m² pr. 24 hours, preferably at least 1000 g/m² pr. 24 hours, more preferably at least 1500 g/m² pr. 24 hours.

8. An external urinary catheter as claimed in any of claims 6 or 7, in which the thermoplastic elastomer is a polyamide-polyether block copolymer, a polyether ester, a thermoplastic urethane or any other suitable material.

9. An external urinary catheter as claimed in claim 1, in which the external urinary catheter is made from a material comprising at least one transparent and permeable thermoplastic elastomer and at least one plasticizer.

10. An external urinary catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims, in which the plasticizer is a citrate plasticizer, a sulphone amide, a benzoate ester or any other suitable material.

11. An external urinary catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims, in which said material comprises 10-60% citrate plasticizer and 40-90% polyamide-polyether block copolymer.

12. An external urinary catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims, in which said material further comprises an addition of a polymer.

13. An external urinary catheter as claimed in claim 12, in which said polymer is a polyethylene elastomer, a polyethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, a graft polyolefin maleic anhydride, an amorphous ethylene-propylene-diene terpolymer, an ionomer or any other suitable material.

14. An external urinary catheter as claimed in any

of the preceding claims, in which said material comprises 50-60% polyamide-polyether block copolymer, 10-20% amorphous ethylene-propylene-diene terpolymer and 20-40% citrate plasticizer.

5 15. An external urinary catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims, in which the material further comprises a release and/or anti-blocking agent, such as eg. an amide or an amorphous silica.

10 16. An external urinary catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims, in which the inner side of the sheath portion is provided with an integral layer of a pressure-sensitive adhesive and the outer side of the sheath portion with an adhesive-rejecting layer.

15 17. A kit comprising an external urinary catheter as claimed in any of claims 1 to 16 and a separate adhesive element.

20 18. A kit comprising an external urinary catheter as claimed in any of claims 1 to 16 and interlocking elements.

25 19. A method of manufacturing an external urinary catheter comprising a tip portion and a sheath portion by subjecting a base material to one or more steps in a thermoplastic process, characterized in that said base material comprises at least one transparent and/or permeable thermoplastic elastomer and at least one plasticizer.

30 20. A method as claimed in claim 19, in which said tip portion is produced by injection moulding and said sheath portion by extrusion, extrusion blow moulding, injection blow moulding or cold rolling.

21. A method as claimed in claim 20, in which the tip portion is produced as a separate unit which is

subsequently connected with the sheath portion.

22. A method as claimed in claim 19, in which said external urinary catheter is produced entirely by extrusion blow moulding.